



**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE  
RUSSELL COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT – 1998 TAXES**

**August 16, 1999**

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Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.  
Auditor of Public Accounts

To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor

John P. McCarty, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

Mike Haydon, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet

Honorable Charles M. Smith, Russell County Judge/Executive

Honorable Larry Bennett, Russell County Sheriff

Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court

The enclosed report prepared by Donna Bouvier, Certified Public Accountant, presents the Russell County Sheriff's Settlement – 1998 Taxes.

We engaged Donna Bouvier, CPA, to perform the financial audit of this statement. We worked closely with the firm during our report review process; the resulting audit comports with our reporting format. As part of the audit, Donna Bouvier, CPA, evaluated the Russell County Sheriff's internal controls and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Hatchett".

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.  
Auditor of Public Accounts

Enclosure

AUDIT REPORT OF  
RUSSELL COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT-1998 TAXES

August 16, 1999



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To the People of Kentucky  
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Independent Auditor's Report

I have audited the Russell County Sheriff's Settlement-1998 Taxes as of August 16, 1999. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the Russell County Sheriff. My responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. These standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

The Sheriff prepares his financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. This cash basis system does not require the maintenance of a general fixed asset group or general long-term debt group of accounts. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statement is not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Russell County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid as of August 16, 1999, in conformity with the basis of accounting described in the preceding paragraph.

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Honorable Larry Bennett, Sheriff  
Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court  
(Continued)

Based on the results of my audit, I have presented a comment and recommendation included herein, which discusses the following area of noncompliance:

- The Sheriff Should Have Required Depository Institutions To Pledge Additional Securities Of \$142,503 As Collateral To Protect Deposits.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, I have also issued a report dated December 8, 1999, on my consideration of the Russell County Sheriff's compliance with certain laws and regulations and internal control over financial reporting.

Donna Bouvier  
Certified Public Accountant

December 8, 1999

RUSSELL COUNTY  
LARRY BENNETT, SHERIFF  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 1998 TAXES

August 16, 1999

		Special		
	County	Taxing	School	State
	Taxes	Districts	Taxes	Taxes
<u>Charges</u>				
Real Estate	\$ 218,988	\$ 499,424	\$ 1,382,569	\$ 501,278
Tangible Personal Property	28,620	68,253	134,701	155,497
Intangible Personal Property	-	-	-	49,674
Fire Protection	2,634	-	-	-
Franchise Corporation	32,536	79,509	152,219	-
Additional Billings	250	595	1,175	1,220
Oil Properties	65	148	410	148
Increased Through Erroneous Assessments	11	25	56	43
Penalties	2,513	5,698	15,637	5,937
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt	(377)	(785)	(1,699)	(232)
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	\$ 285,240	\$ 652,867	\$ 1,685,068	\$ 713,565
<u>Credits</u>				
Discounts	\$ 3,368	\$ 7,636	\$ 20,387	\$ 10,051
Exonerations	1,481	3,393	8,978	3,739
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	3,728	8,476	23,465	8,487
Tangible Personal Property	4,608	10,989	21,688	22,264
Intangible Personal Property	-	-	-	215
Total Credits	\$ 13,185	\$ 30,494	\$ 74,518	\$ 44,756
Net Tax Yield	\$ 272,055	\$ 622,373	\$ 1,610,550	\$ 668,809
Less: Commissions*	11,850	26,063	64,422	28,712

\* and \*\* See Page 4



RUSSELL COUNTY  
LARRY BENNETT, SHERIFF  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 1998 TAXES  
August 16, 1999  
(Continued)

Net Taxes Due	\$ 260,205		\$ 596,310		\$ 1,546,128		\$ 640,097
Taxes Paid	260,198		596,294		1,546,059		639,909
Due Districts or (Refunds Due Sheriff)							
as of Completion of Fieldwork	\$ 7		\$ 16		\$ 69		\$ 188
			**				

\* Commissions

10% on \$ 10,000  
4.25% on \$1,398,147  
4% on \$1,765,641

\*\* Special Taxing Districts:

Library District	\$ 2
Health District	(4)
Extension District	4
Soil Conservation District	4
Hospital District	5
Ambulance District	<u>5</u>

Due Districts or (Refund(s) Due Sheriff)	\$16
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statement.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RUSSELL COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

August 16, 1999

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, Kentucky Revised Statute 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

RUSSELL COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 1998 TAXES

August 16, 1999

(Continued)

NOTE 2: DEPOSITS

The Sheriff maintains deposits with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to law, the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. The Sheriff entered into a written agreement with the depository institution and met requirements (a), (b), and (c) stated above. However, as of December 7, 1998, the uncollateralized amount on deposit was \$142,503. The pledged collateral and FDIC insurance did not equal or exceed the amount on deposit.

NOTE 3: PROPERTY TAXES

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 1998. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the year ended June 30, 1999. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was November 1, 1998, through May 8, 1999.

NOTE 4: INTEREST INCOME

The Russell County Sheriff earned \$4,126 as interest income on 1998 taxes. The Sheriff distributed the appropriate amount to the school district as required by statute, and the remainder will be used to operate the Sheriff's office.

RUSSELL COUNTY  
LARRY BENNETT, SHERIFF  
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

August 16, 1999

The Sheriff Should Have Required Depository Institutions To Pledge Additional Securities Of \$142,503 As Collateral To Protect Deposits.

The Sheriff's deposits were not adequately secured by \$142,503 on December 7, 1998. Under provisions of KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240(4), banks are required to provide pledges of securities as collateral for interest-bearing and noninterest-bearing deposits if either exceeds the \$100,000 amount of insurance coverage provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. I recommend that the Sheriff require depository institutions to pledge sufficient securities as collateral to protect deposits at all times.

Management's Response:

Will monitor balance more closely and have depository institution pledge additional securities as collateral when necessary to protect deposits at all times.

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE  
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL  
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Honorable Charles M. Smith, County Judge/Executive  
Honorable Larry Bennett, Russell County Sheriff  
Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control  
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial  
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

I have audited the Russell County Sheriff's Settlement-1998 Taxes as of August 16, 1999, and have issued my report thereon dated December 8, 1999. I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Russell County Sheriff's Settlement - 1998 Taxes as of August 16, 1999, is free of material misstatement, I performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of my audit and, accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards which is described in the Comment and Recommendation. Pledge of securities were not adequate to protect deposits at all times.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing my audit, I considered the Russell County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. My consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of

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(Continued)

the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. I noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that I consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended for the information of management. However, this report, upon release by the Auditor of Public Accounts, is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bouvier  
Certified Public Accountant

December 8, 1999